Acquisition of aircrafts by IA

651. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines bid for acquiring new aircraft was expired on 31st December, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the IA has sought any intension for the bids submitted by Airbus Industries and Boeing;

(c) whether the issue of acquiring has still not been decided; and

(d) the reasons for delaying such a decision apart from national security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPADYESSO NAIK): (a) and (b)The offers from aircraft and engine manufacturers, expiring on 31st December, 2002 have been extended until 31st March, 2003.

(c) and (d) The proposal received from Indian Airlines Ltd. is under consideration in consultation with various appraising agencies like Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Environment etc. The proposal will be taken up for investment decision after due processes.

Operation of international flights from domestic airports

652. SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD: Will the Minister of CIVILAVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering or has formulated any scheme to operate international flights from domestic airports; and

(b) if so, what benefits are likely to be accrued to Air India and Indian Airlines as a result thereof, with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPADYESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) International flights are already operating from the domestic airports at Jaipur, Lucknow, Calicut, Coimbatore, Trichy, Gaya, Varanasi and Patna. A hub and spoke arrangement has been evolved between Air India and Indian Airlines. Under this arrangement, Indian Airlines is operating about 20 flights